



FACT SHEET

Beginning June 1, 2019 SSI recipients may be eligible for **CalFresh Food benefits**. There is **NO CHANGE** to Supplemental Security Income/State Supplementary Payment (SSI/SSP).

FOOD BENEFITS

What are CalFresh Food benefits?

- CalFresh provides monthly Food benefits for individuals and families with low income. CalFresh is California's **Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program** (SNAP).
- CalFresh Food benefits are issued monthly to eligible households via an **Electronic Benefit Transfer** (EBT) card. The EBT card can be used at grocery stores and farmers markets that accept EBT.
- CalFresh Food benefits stretch food dollars for individuals and families. This means more money for more nutritious foods, including fruits and vegetables.

- The amount of CalFresh Food benefits a household receives is based on household size, income, and monthly expenses, such as housing, utilities, and medical costs. The average amount nationally for an older adult or person with disability is \$105 – \$110 per month. The range is \$15 – \$192 per month.

| Household Size | Maximum Monthly Food Benefit Amount |
|--|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | \$192 |
| 2 | \$353 |
| 3 | \$505 |
| 4 | \$642 |
| 5 | \$762 |
| 6 | \$914 |
| 7 | \$1011 |
| Each additional person | +\$144 |
| *Reflects 2018-19 CalFresh maximum benefit levels. | |

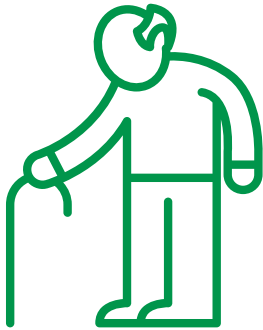
- CalFresh Food benefits also allow eligible older adults and people with disabilities to buy hot and prepared meals at participating restaurants in some counties through the **Restaurant Meals Program** (RMP).

- Employment and training services may also be available to increase the employment and earning capacity of CalFresh recipients.
- All are welcome – older adults, qualified immigrants, people with disabilities, non-English speakers, people who are homeless, children, and all recipients of SSI.

What does the expansion of CalFresh to SSI recipients mean for SSI?

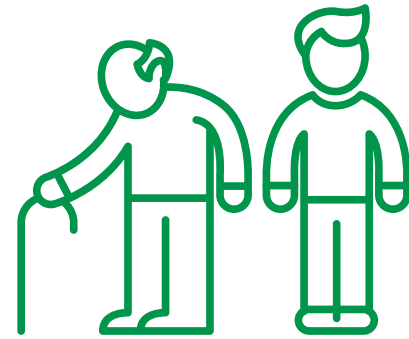
- Older adults and people with disabilities receiving SSI may be eligible for CalFresh Food benefits beginning June 1st and any time thereafter.
- There is **NO CHANGE** to the SSI/SSP monthly benefit. SSI recipients may now get both SSI/SSP and CalFresh Food benefits.
- **Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants** (CAPI) recipients will automatically receive a \$10 per person grant increase beginning June 1st to be the same as SSI/SSP.
- New state **Supplemental Nutrition Benefits** (SNB) on EBT were created to aid existing CalFresh households with an excluded SSI member that experience a drop in their CalFresh Food benefits when the SSI member is added at implementation.
- New state **Transitional Nutrition Benefits** (TNB) on EBT were created to aid existing CalFresh households with an excluded SSI member that experience a total loss of their CalFresh Food benefits when the SSI member is added at implementation.

Newly Eligible for CalFresh



Households with ONLY SSI/SSP recipients.

Still Eligible for CalFresh, Increased Food Benefits



Households with any combination of SSI/SSP and non-SSI/SSP recipients.

Still Eligible for CalFresh, Decreased Food Benefits



Households with any combination of SSI/SSP and non-SSI/SSP recipients who experience a decrease in CalFresh food benefits at implementation are eligible for CalFresh AND SNB.

Newly Ineligible for CalFresh



Households with any combination of SSI/SSP and non-SSI/SSP recipients and experience a loss of CalFresh eligibility at implementation are eligible for TNB.

APPLICATION PROCESS

For New Applicants

- The CalFresh application process includes:
 1. Complete an application – click, call, or come in.
 2. Complete an interview – call or come in.
 3. Provide proof of income and expenses, if needed.
 4. County determines eligibility in 30 days or less (or 3 days if there is zero or very little money available).
 5. County provides an EBT card.
- Language services and reasonable accommodations for people with disabilities are provided by counties.
- Households may be eligible for expedited services (benefits within 3 days) if they have zero or very little money available.
- Proof of income and expenses may be required, including housing and medical costs. If you need more information or are having difficulty obtaining proof, the county office can help you.
- A household may designate an **Authorized Representative** (AR) to act on behalf of the household by phone, on-line, or in person. To apply on behalf of a household, the AR must provide proof of identity for themselves and the applicant.
- SSI recipients may be eligible for CalFresh beginning June 1st. Applications for June CalFresh Food benefits may be submitted

in May. SSI recipients that apply in May will still only receive June CalFresh Food benefits. The date of any May application will not impact the amount of June CalFresh Food benefits. Contact your local county for more information.

- Beginning June 1st, the **Social Security Administration** (SSA) field offices will also screen SSI recipients at application or redetermination. SSA will assist SSI-only households who are not receiving CalFresh to apply (this is known as "joint processing"). SSI individuals in a household with non SSI-members will be referred by SSA to the county for assistance to apply.

For Households Already Receiving CalFresh

- Households who already receive CalFresh and who have an excluded member do not need to re-apply. Counties will contact those households at their next report date. Households can always contact counties with questions or to report a change.
- If a household adding the SSI recipient results in a(n):
 - Increase in a household's current CalFresh Food benefits, they will simply receive more CalFresh Food benefits on their existing EBT card.
 - Reduction in household's current CalFresh Food benefits, they may be eligible to receive the **Supplemental Nutrition Benefit** (SNB) on their existing EBT card.

- Total loss of current CalFresh Food benefits, they may be eligible to receive the **Transitional Nutrition Benefit** (TNB) instead on their existing EBT card.
- A CalFresh household is defined by “purchase and prepare” rules. Some SSI recipients may purchase and prepare food separately from others in their residence, and then they may be considered their own CalFresh household.

Including Expenses Can Lead to More Food Assistance

- Households with at least one older adult and/or person with disability with verified out-of-pocket medical expenses over \$35 and less than \$155 a month can claim **Standard Medical Deduction** of \$120. Eligible households can always claim actual expenses above \$155.
- Households that include at least one older adult and/or person with disability have no cap on the **shelter deduction** and may claim all actual shelter expenses.
- Households that include a member that works or is looking for work may deduct actual costs for **dependent care**, including child care or care for an older adult and/or person with disability regardless of age.



Click **GetCalFresh.org**
to apply online



Call **1-877-847-3663**
(FOOD)



Come in/find an office
at **CalFreshFood.org**

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